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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,037	11/16/2001	Dimitri Donskoy	7604/40/1	2120
20694	7590	05/06/2004	EXAMINER	
WOLFF & SAMSON, P.C. ONE BOLAND DRIVE WEST ORANGE, NJ 07052			HARVEY, MINSUN OH	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2644		11

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/996,037	DONSKOY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Minsun Harvey	2644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,9-12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4-8,13,16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2644

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 3, 12, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kirjavainen.

Kirjavainen discloses an acoustic and vibration sensor (fig. 1a) and which is comprised of a first electrically charged layer having a contact side and an intermediate side (2, top); a second electrically charged layer having a contact side and an intermediate side (2 bottom); a compliant intermediate electrically insulating layer disposed between and contacting the intermediate sides of the first and second electrically charged layers (4); a first contact layer disposed on the contact side of the first electrically charged layer (3, top); and a second contact layer (3, bottom) having at least one sensing element disposed on the contact side of the second electrically charged layer (B and D), wherein the at least one sensing element and layers of the device move with respect to each other in response to acoustic or vibrational waves intercepted by the sensor, the movement creating an output voltage corresponding to the acoustic or vibrational waves (col. 3, lines 13 to 24).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9 to 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirjavainen.

Regarding claims 9 to 11, Kirjavainen does not disclose wherein one or both of the contact layers can be patterned by a subtractive process to form sensing elements; by an additive process to form sensing elements; and the intermediate layer comprises a gel. Even though Kirjavainen does not disclose processes as claimed in claims 9 and 10 and the intermediate layer which comprises a gel as claimed in claim 11, it would have been obvious to have the contact layers patterned by a subtractive process to form sensing elements; by an additive process to form sensing elements; and the intermediate layer comprises a gel because they are all well known processes which has been used in the art for forming sensing elements and using a gel for an intermediate layer is also well known in the art.

5. Claims 4-8, 13, and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 18 to 19 are allowable over prior art of record.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minsun Harvey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Isen, can be reached on (703) 305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MINSUN OH HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER